IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

1. (Amended) A volume controller for controlling volume balance between a front speaker and a rear speaker located within a vehicle, comprising:

a fade volume computing unit for computing an amplifying factor k1 of an input signal for providing an increased volume at the rear or front speaker which is equal to a decreased volume at the front or rear speaker when an input signal is attenuated by an attenuating factor K1, so that when a balancing point is moved from a prescribed position, a total volume within the vehicle is unchanged; and

a control unit for multiplying the signal supplied to the rear or front speaker by k1 when the input signal supplied to the front or rear speaker is attenuated by K1.

2. (Amended) A volume controller for controlling volume balance between a front speaker and a rear speaker located within a vehicle, comprising:

a fade volume computing unit for computing an amplifying factor k1 of an input signal for providing an increased volume at the rear or front speaker by the volume at a prescribed position within the vehicle which is equal to a decreased volume in the front or rear speaker when a signal supplied to the front or rear speaker is attenuated by an attenuating factor K1; and

a control unit for multiplying the signal supplied to the rear or front speaker by k1 when a signal supplied to the front or rear speaker is attenuated by K1;

wherein the prescribed position is located at a center of a front seat, at a center of a rear seat, or a center between the front seat and the rear seat.

3. (Amended) A volume controller for controlling volume balance between a front speaker and a rear speaker located within a vehicle, comprising:

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a fade volume computing unit for computing an amplifying factor k1 of an input signal for providing an increased volume at the rear or front speaker by the volume at a prescribed position within the vehicle which is equal to a decreased volume in the front or rear speaker when a signal supplied to the front or rear speaker is attenuated by an attenuating factor K1; and

a control unit for multiplying the signal supplied to the rear or front speaker by k1 when a signal supplied to the front or rear speaker is attenuated by K1;

wherein attenuations when acoustic waves from the front speaker and rear speaker are propagated to the prescribed position are previously recorded, and on the basis of the attenuations, the increased and decreased volumes at the front or rear speaker are computed.

Please add the following new claims:

6. (New) A volume controller according to claim 1, wherein the prescribed position is

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located at a center of a front seat, at a center of a rear seat, or a center between the front seat and the rear seat.

7. (New) A volume controller according to claim 1, wherein attenuations when acoustic waves from the front speaker and rear speaker are propagated to the prescribed position are previously recorded, and on the basis of the attenuations, the increased and decreased volumes at the front or rear speaker are computed.

8. (New) A volume controller according to claim 7, wherein the attenuations are computed on the basis of an input indicative of a relationship between the prescribed position and positions where the front and rear speaker are located.

9. (New) A volume controller according to claim 7, wherein the increased volumes of the front or rear speaker and of the rear or front speaker are computed on an adjustment value in a level adjusting means to be connected to the front speaker and the rear speaker.